School of Optics welcomes best in the field

Harvard Nobel Laureate chairs inaugural conference

The UCF School of Optics celebrated its recent establishment as a formal UCF school this week by hosting an optics conference, which drew about 500 people.

“The conference was a bit of an official recognition of the establishment of the School of Optics, but mostly it was a celebration of the discipline of optics,” M.J. Soileau, director of the School of Optics, said.

The conference was held Jan. 11-13 in the Student Union and featured prominent speakers, including three Nobel Laureates. One of these, Nicolaas Bloembergen of Harvard University, chaired the conference.

UCF faculty and students were pleased with the quality and stature of the conference.

“I am particularly thankful to Nobel Laureate Nicolaas Bloembergen and Professor Eric Van Stryland, of our faculty, for putting together a conference program of exceptional quality for the benefit of our students, faculty and guests,” said Soileau. “I am most proud of the fact that our peers in Optics now recognize UCF as one of the top three schools in the country in optics. This has been our goal since coming to UCF 12 years ago.”

UCF Provost Gary E. Whitehouse was also supportive of the conference. “It is a tribute to the School of Optics that most of the leaders in optics participated in the conference,” he said. “I feel the conference was definitely a high point for UCF and the optics community in Central Florida.”

The conference ran from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

CONFERENCES, Page 3

Golden Rule violations for fall '98 5 short of last year

UCF took formal disciplinary action against 113 students during the fall of 1998. This is five less than the 118 students disciplined during all of last year.

Dr. Garth Jenkins, associate dean of students, said it is hard to pinpoint the exact cause for the increase. Jenkins said he thought the growth of the student population and the zero tolerance policy of the UCF Police Department were key factors.

Indeed, the population has risen from 28,302 in the fall of 1997 to 28,838 in the fall of 1998.

Sgt. Tom Gorbas of UCF’s Crime Prevention Unit said the police department is having to be more aggressive due to the demands of society. “That’s just the nature of the beast. The university is continueing to grow and the community around us is growing.”

The majority of the violations are for misuse of student ID cards. Jenkins said most of these violations were of people getting fake IDs not only for the purchase of alcohol, but also to get others admission into the football games at the Citrus Bowl. “We are getting more and more serious about it,” Jenkins said. “The police in particular with the fake IDs.”

Jenkins said most cases involving the second largest group of violations, the misuse and abuse of alcoholic beverages, were reported by the UCF Police Department.

However, university policy states that if UCF regulations apply to student behavior on off-campus.

If a student is arrested off campus, it is up to the discretion of the arresting agency whether or not to forward the report to UCF. Therefore, a student could receive judicial punishment and punishment from the university. “Most of the time we deal with Orange County,” Jenkins said. “They are not

Students line up for the nearly 70 pizzas distributed during the event.

Golden Rule a showcase for campus activities

Twist and shout

UCF music student fulfills dream by playing guitar on Abbey Road.

I have a dream

Reflecting on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Is UCF’s Golden Rule a good idea? Respond to our weekly Q&A.

Check out our updated online calendar, your source for UCF events.
Most violations committed by freshman

Discipline at UCF is handled one of two ways. Either administratively with Jenkins as the hearing officer, or with the Student Judicial Council, a group of students elected by the Student Senate.

Jenkins said sanctions as serious as suspensions are almost always handled by the Judicial Council. "That's a pretty serious decision and I think more than one person needs to look at it."

Consistency is something Jenkins said he tries to follow when considering punishment. Because the university does not have guidelines like the civil and criminal courts, each case can be dealt with individually. "UCF is getting big geometrically," he said, "and any opportunity we have to look at students as individuals, we can do."

Jenkins said university discipline focuses more on education. Depending on the severity of the violation, students are often required to attend seminars, workshops, or classes, or perform community service. Most of the alcohol violations involve a student having to attend the Wellness Center's alcohol and chemical drug program. Community service is usually related to the violation. Jenkins said if it is an alcohol violation, the student may have to volunteer at a halfway house. "We try to make it an educational process," he said. "It's punishment, sure it is. I mean, who's kidding who? But I have a lot more latitude than the civil and criminal courts do."

Punishments handed out during the fall were:
- one student was suspended
- nine were placed on disciplinary probation
- six were ordered to perform community service
- eight paid restitution
- 30 had to complete educational requirements of workshops or papers
- nine received official disciplinary warnings

Many students admit that they have heard of the Golden Rule, but have never thought much about it. "I don't see that it would make a difference," Jenkins said educating students about the rules is essential to discouraging unacceptable conduct.

"This is to let the campus know that the university does have expectations and there are standards of behavior. The university does care and we'll deal with the people who don't adhere to the rules."

Senior Kymbert Brown said students should take it upon themselves to know what's expected of them. "I think the university is a miniature of the world. Just like in the world, there are rules and regulations so there should be at the university too."
Short first week hurts spring rush

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Rush this semester did not have the impact it usually does, as it was plagued by a shorter rush week and poor advertising. Jaime Halbrook, president of Pi Kappa Alpha, said, "Being on the Interfraternity Council for most of my Greek life, I have seen several rushers. This year's spring rush was unfortunately doomed to fail because of its timing and lack of advertising. I have faith that as this young IFC executive board gains experience they will be able to plan a more effective rush week."

Interfraternity President Scott Baker said that although it was a short work for rush, most of the chapter members were happy. "I think rush went well and overall they're satisfied with it."

The IFC did look at extending rush for the next week. "After talking with the chapters, there was no need to since chapters can give informal bids all that week and throughout the semester," Baker said.

Austin Reeves, co-chair for the Rush Committee for Delta Tau Delta, thinks that continuing rush would have been a problem for his chapter. "Since we are a smaller organization, money would have been an issue," he said. Reeves said the numbers were down across campus for rush.

There was a miscommunication of when school actually started

- Rob Tessmer

The total number of rushers pledging this semester was about 150 according to the vice president of recruitment for IFC. Rob Tessmer, Tessmer said the number was very good, considering it was spring rush. "Spring rush just fell at a bad time. There was a miscommunication of when school actually started. The IFC was told last fall that school would start on Jan. 4 (Monday), so we planned Rush Kickoff for Jan. 6 (Wednesday)." Tessmer said.

Tessmer said he is looking at new and different ways to make spring rush more effective. "We are looking forward to making spring rush bigger and better because there's no reason it should be significantly less than fall rush," he said.

Tessmer said the goal for Delta Sigma Pi was the goal for rush and the fraternities is not the numbers, but the quality of the new members.

"We look at their grades, leadership, and school activities, and try to find good guys to join," Rubenstein said.

Luis Velazquez, vice president for Delta Upsilon, said the stereotype of fraternities was also something dealt with at spring rush.

He said: "Students are hesitant to join because it's the stereotype the biggest thing we have to compete with. We offer so much more than just a party, and we emphasize that with students."

Scholars discuss diverse topics, CREOL nationally recognized

The CREOL (Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers) Building, which houses the new School of Optics.

FROM PAGE 1

to 5 p.m. and featured 17 different speakers. Topics included, "The Foundation of Optics," "Future Trends in Optics," "Impact of Optics," and "Industry/Education/Government Partnership." One UCF graduate said the topics were very interesting. "I have an engineering background, so some of the technical people were very helpful," Kirk Ketterer, of Florida Scotland Initiative, said. "One talk was on how to get out of the lab and into the market. That is interesting stuff."

Ketterer works in Central Florida trying to develop economic opportunities for Scotland. "We hope to do more things with CREOL, and I don't see that stopping."

Students at UCF also found the conference beneficial. Brian Mathison, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, said his favorite speaker was Robert Greener, of the University of Wisconsin. Greenler spoke at a banquet held Monday night at the UCF Arena, which about 400 people attended. His topic was "Sunlight and Ice Crystals in the Skies of Antarctica."

"He demonstrated 'sun dog,' which is a halo around the sun created in ice," Mattison said. "He showed the phenomenon by using a container shaped like an ice crystal and spinning it around, while shining light on it. This was then projected on a screen. It really showed the beauty of optics."

The School of Optics Inaugural Conference is only the start for the new school, said Provost Austin Reeves. "I am very encouraged by the beginning and the future of the School of Optics," he said. "Dr. Soileau has offered outstanding focus and leadership for the optics at UCF. This is not an end but a beginning."

Soileau is confident that the conference will have a lasting effect of prominence on UCF and its students. "We enhance the reputation of our university, and thus the value of the degrees granted to our students, by conducting events of such scholarly excellence and by having the very best in the world visit our campus," Soileau said.
Clubs and organizations set up tables to pass out information to students and win new members.

**Clubs use event to inform students on their activities**

From Page 1

Jane ("Still Life" from Jacksonville, Dave Smart, a DJ at the Headlights nightclub in Jacksonville, was at the event.

The event was called KnightLife for the first time last semester; in previous years it had been the Activities Fair. "I had a vision in an airport for more involvement calling it KnightLife. I see it as a huge success," Student Body President Jason Murphy said.

This year's event was also the first time in a decade that it was not canceled because of bad weather.

Meg Dunell, associate director for Campus Activities said: "This is my third year here and five or six times in a row it was canceled due to rain or the cold. This type of event you can't move inside."

"This event showcases the wide variety of choices of things to do," Dunell added.

The other director of the event, Courtney Martin, director of Campus Involvement, was in charge of the Student Activities. Martin handed out nearly 70 pizzas and 600 chicken wings.

"The full event was very successful and we wanted to set up another event in the spring and create a party atmosphere," Martin said. "We invited all the clubs and organizations to attend and we had around 60 responses."

Some of the clubs represented were: Alpha Phi Omega, the Rugby Club, the Society of Women Engineers, Water Polo, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Tau Kwon Do, Music Fraternity for Women, and the Environmental Society.

The Student Alumni Association was also there to recruit students and help prepare them for after graduation. This organization offers "real world" connections by offering mentoring programs, seminars, and invitations to alumni events.

"This is a mini-alumni group and it is open for students from freshman to graduates, so we're here recruiting new members and directors," Carla Cordoba, the program director for the Student Alumni Association, said.

Volunteer UCF was also at KnightLife to promote involvement in service projects.

Gina Weiss, a member of the board of directors for Volunteer UCF, said: "A lot of students aren't obligated to join, but we have events once a month through SPARK, so they can participate and not be obligated for the rest of their school life. This event does help with student awareness."

The Campus Activities Board had a booth and wanted students to know that CAB is about more than Homecoming. Jaime Endick, director for Popular Entertainment, said: "We're here for the students and since attendance is down this time of year, we wanted to promote all of the events because we do have a lot coming up."

Reach Peer Education was there promoting its upcoming events. "We have a table every Wednesday to promote health services and health peer education on issues such as alcohol, drugs, birth control, and STDs," Melanie Downs, a Reach peer educator, said.

If you want information on these or other clubs and organizations, contact the Office of Student Activities at 823-6471.
Membrane group receives $60,000 contract to study water treatment

Maria Chandler

The UCF Membrane Research Focus Group received a $60,000 contract from Hydranautics Membrane Manufacturer to test a new ultrafiltration beginning this month.

The focus group, formally established in the summer of 1998, is comprised of civil and environmental engineering professors Seung Hong and James Taylor, engineering professor A.A. Randall and molecular and microbiology professor Saleh Naser. Hydranautics Membrane Manufacturer is the principal investigator, and Taylor and Hong are the co-principal investigators of the project.

Naser's role is to inject pathogens into the water and pour it through the filter. Then he tests the water to determine if the water is pure. The project is to be completed by the end of this year.

In addition to this project, two active projects, funded by American Waterworks Association Research Foundation, studies the "causes and control of particle fouling in membrane filtration: bench and pilot scale evaluations." This research is being conducted by Hong who is an expert in the development and application of membrane processes for water and waste water treatment.

Taylor is working alongside Hong as co-principal investigator, in a partnership with Yale University. Ten water utilities nationwide are also participating in the study.

Taylor has more than 25 years of experience in water treatment and has been with the university since 1977. He is currently the director of the Environmental Systems Engineering Institute. His research at UCF centers on the study of the treatment of drinking water.

Randall's research interests include microbial quality and regrowth in drinking water, advanced water treatment and groundwater bioremediation.

The fourth member of the group, Naser, is a participating investigator at the Center for Diagnostic and Drug Development.

Remembering the late Martin Luther King Jr.

Alexander Melendez

 Numerous memorials across the country celebrated MLK day this year. At UCF, students gathered Monday to celebrate the life and mission of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The African American Student Union held a Freedom March across the UCF campus, then gathered for a time of reflection on the slain civil rights leader and his achievement.

The march went from the Reflection Pond to the Student Auditorium, where the second half of the day’s festivities, Soulful Expressions, took place. Soulful Expressions is an event where students can reflect on the times and what exactly King’s work did for society.

The African American Student Union said students need to express their feelings on what has taken place in the past few decades, and what has taken place in their lives. The Freedom March and Soulful Expressions are meant to be conduits for students to vent their feelings.

In 1962, Martin Luther King Jr. was born the eldest son to Martin Luther Sr. and Alberta Williams King. His father was a pastor of Ebenezer Baptist church in Atlanta, Ga. As such, he levied a strong influence in the community and on his young son’s development. King Jr. excelled in the segregated schools of Atlanta.

By the age of 15, he had been accepted by Morehouse College in Atlanta. At 18, King graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary and became a fully ordained Baptist minister. He later went on to earn a doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University in 1955.

Also in 1955, King helped head up the Montgomery Improvement Association and become president of the group shortly after. He led the famous bus protest sparked by Rosa Parks when she refused to relinquish her seat to a white passenger at the order of the bus driver. In 1957, King helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of black churches and ministers that aimed specifically at challenging segregation.

King organized numerous protest campaigns through the SCLC, the most famous being the march in Birmingham, Ala. King encouraged young children and high school students to attend the protest, which was met with violence by the city police. The police commissioner sent men with attack dogs and high pressure water hoses in an attempt to stop the efforts of the protesters.

This action backfired in King’s favor. The next day, newspapers all over the country ran pictures of people pinned to buildings by the hoses and small children being mauled by police attack dogs.

Perhaps King’s most famous speech came on Aug. 28, 1963. The “I Have A Dream” speech was the keynote address to an audience of more than 200,000 civil rights supporters in Washington, D.C. The speech, along with the march, were instrumental to Congress passing the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

On April 4, 1968, a sniper in Memphis, Tenn. assassinated King.

In 1983, Congress made his birthday a federal holiday.

Breakfast Menu 9 am - 10:30 am

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2) “Breakfast Slider”
Sub roll with scrambled egg, bacon, cheese, onion, and green pepper...$3.59

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Kaiser with egg, cheese, and bacon...$1.89

4) Island French Toast
Thick batter French Toast a secret island recipe...$2.99

Bring a Future into Locos Wednesday mornings and we'll buy you coffee!
UCF music student pours his heart into his work

TODD MCFILKER  STAFF WRITER

I remember my first morning of school since I had moved to South Florida. It was Chris's 23rd birthday. I got up early to make sure he was sleeping, then sat down in the living room and listened to the music he had been learning to play that week. It was a beautiful day, and the sun was shining through the window. Chris, on the other hand, was still asleep. He had been up late the night before, practicing for a performance he was due to attend.

I walked into Chris's bedroom to find him jamming on his guitar under a framed portrait of John Lennon. Chris's 23 years has been his mother. She has never had lessons, nor does he need them. Chris is the most talented musician I have ever met. He teaches me about The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and Jane's Addiction. I have always been jealous that I can't recreate the tunes on musical instruments the way that Chris can. But that's okay. I can just sing with Chris.

I remember Chris and I were out for a ride when we saw a 'going out of business' sign for a music store in Ft. Lauderdale. Chris's mother, Wanda, said Chris's mother, Wanda, said Chris was excited to hear the news. He had been saving his money for a new guitar, and now he could finally buy one. He bought a twelve-string guitar, and I promised to learn how to play it with him.

I sat down on the bed and closed my eyes in deep thought. A minute had passed before Chris responded in a soft whisper. "I'm 6'7". I'm a Chinese bodybuilder. And I love rap. I love to work out to rap music," Chris replied with a straight face. Most people would have been caught off guard by this response, but not me. I have become quite accustomed to Chris's dry humor. He sat down on the bed and closed his eyes in deep thought. When I opened them, I was surprised to see Chris still sitting on the bed, looking into mine. His devilish grin was part of the family.

Chris replied with a smile. "I did take a minute. But once I felt the audience following my guitar, I felt right at home on stage." Staring at Chris's grin, I immediately thought of another moment of glory in our lives. I recall last New Year's vacation when the two of us flew to London. Everything, from the snow, to the beer on tap, was perfect. Chris's highlight of his life was playing his guitar on the steps of Abbey Road recording studios. Chris opened his eyes wide and looked into mine. His devilish grin always appears when recalling this experience. He was shining merely from being there, despite there being no tour of the Abbey Road studios. So, he just sat on the front steps and played his guitar for almost an hour. He feels somewhat connected with the Beatles' music.

The biggest impact on Chris's musical life came from John Lennon. Chris has been a huge fan of Lennon for years. He bought a bootleg CD of Lennon's, Lennon was the one that Chris could really get into with. Since the first time he listened to Lennon, Chris could hear the passion in Lennon's voice. He felt a warmth, seeing how Chris could relate to what Lennon was saying. He connected with the "peace and love" that Lennon preached. He feels that he looks at life and its beauties the same way as Lennon did.

It was their third year in high school when Chris got into his band, Howlround. Each of the four members got to contribute original music as well as their own lyrics. These guys played regularly at "The Blarney Stone" and "The Surf Café" in South Florida. Chris usually stayed hidden behind his guitar. However, upon occasion, he would step up to the microphone for a song or two.

I have personally become dependent on Chris and the other members of the band. Originally, I was using Pink Floyd to set the mood for one of my skydiving documentaries. However, my producer said, "This band is too good, I can't let you use any band who was signed to a label. Fine, no problem. Ever since all of my background music has been supplied by Howlround, the sound of the band can be compared with today's 'grunge' superstars. "Howlround could honestly be mistaken for a bootleg Pearl Jam recording," said marketing major Jennifer Salomon. These days the band is split up with everyone pursuing college education on the side. "I miss the band. When I listen to us, I really miss playing with the guys," Chris said.

Now Chris is up in Orlando for music school. The UCF Music Department prepares students for performance and music education. The department has a deserved reputation for high standards. Chris is among the high number of prospective students auditioning this year. Along with the number of students, the Music Department has increased its faculty with the addition of new professors, teachers and staff. The department has been authorized to plan for a master's degree to be implemented in the Fall of 2002.

"This is a much needed degree because the major is not offered at any other school around here. The closest is USF in Tampa," said Dr. Eubank, chair of the UCF Music Department. Graduates have been hired around the nation from Disney World to feature films in Hollywood.

Chris hopes to one day recording music, as well as creating it. This is why graduating with this new master's degree will help Chris find a job. "I am interested in music performance, they get a good grounding here that they can take on to graduate schools," said Dr. Keith Koons, associate professor of music and dean of the Music Department.

Chris's education is his art, and his art revolves around music. I cannot relate because my art is different. I am more into photography and filmmaking. But one thing is for certain, our art forms are about creating beauty. And Chris has enough love to pour my heart into my work. After all, Chris, how Lennon did it, and that's how Chris makes his art.
**Volunteer UCF Awards**

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- **Community Commitment Award**
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  - 50 to 100 hours
- **Outstanding Benevolence Recipient**
  - 100 or more hours
- **Knight in Shining Armor**
  - Individual with the highest number of community service hours for the year

**Organization Awards:**
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  - Award for organizations that focus primarily on volunteerism
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  - Organization with the most community service percentage per volunteer

**Questions?** Call: 923-6471
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**Holiday drive collects over 2,000 toys for underprivileged kids**

**Nicole King**
NEWS EDITOR

One of UCF’s volunteer organizations, Circle K, collected over 2,036 stuffed toys for underprivileged children for the Christmas/Hanukkah holidays.

Eight organizations across the state received the toys, including Toys for Tots, Boystown, Redlin Christian Migrant Association and UCF’s Creative School.

UCF professors participated in the collection, urging students to bring in toys. They were: Dr. Sutton, Dr. Finn, Ms. Jordan, Dr. Scott Smith, and Dr. Mike Luckett.

This is the second year for the drive. Last year, about 750 toys were collected.

• The Health and Physics Building (HPB) will be renamed the Mathematics and Physics Building (MAP) starting this spring. The College of Health and Public Affairs will move out of the building as soon as construction on its new building is completed. The Mathematics Department will move into HPB, joining the Physics Department, during the summer.

• UCF’s REACH: Peer Education and the Female Health Foundation will host actress Drew Barrymore at UCF’s Student Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28. Barrymore will take part in a panel discussion with peer educators and students regarding practicing safer sex.

• An orientation meeting for UCF’s Study Abroad Program will be held from 1:30-5 p.m. on Jan. 25 in the Student Union’s Cape Florida Ballroom 316AB. Candidates must be juniors or seniors by Fall 1999, have a 3.0 GPA and be approved by their academic units or department. The application deadline is Feb. 25.

An open faculty orientation meeting on UCF’s Study Abroad Program will be held from 1:30-5 p.m. on Feb. 1 in the Research Pavilion, first floor, Conference Room 120. Topics such as expenses, rules and requirements will be discussed.

• The Campus Activities Board (CAB) is looking for a Concerts Director and a Homecoming ’99 Director. Applications can be picked up in the CAB office. Interviews will be the week of Jan. 18-21.

The committee directors and times are as follows:

- **Speakers:** - Fred Piccolo
  - Times: TBA
- **Concerts:** - Needed
  - Times: Thursday @ 2:30 p.m.
- **Special Events:** - Michelle Woolley
  - Times: Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.
- **Public Relations:** - Joy Walker
  - Times: Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.
- **Graphics:** - Jerome Pederson (Co-Director Justin Matles)
  - Times: Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.
- **Dance Marathon:** - Jessica Jones
  - Times: TBA
- **Cinema:** - Bill Ferrante
  - Times/TBA
- **Cultural Arts:** - Ketubah Bailey
  - Times: Thursday @ 5 p.m.
- **Popular Entertainment:** - Jaime Endick
  - Times: TBA
- **Spectacular Knights:** - Lauren Okker
  - Times: TBA
- **CAB Student Director:** - Jessica Smith
  - (Catch-a-Cab committee also)
  - Times: TBA
- **Video-Productions:** - Jonah Travick and Austin Reeves
  - Times: Tuesday @ 2 p.m.

Got something to say? Write a weekly opinion column Call the Central Florida Future at 365-7656!
Please excuse Johnny's poor attendance.

McMullen Staff Writer

I suppose if I really tried, I could care less about the NLA than I do. But as it turns out, I am busy with my 15-hour course load, my 25-hour per-week part-time job, my wife and my 3-year-old daughter. In my freelance writing class, I was supposed to read 3 issues each of two separate magazines. That's six magazines in one week. I still have issues of Outside, Backpacker and National Geographic languishing on my bookshelves since 1996. I can't even read one magazine in a week.

And that's just one class. Plus, I live in Brevard County and my major is not offered at UCF Brevard. Every day during my 45 to 60 minute commute, I pass acres of land with Brevard County license plates and UCF parking decals. Furthermore, I do not think I am the only student with a family to support.

So when Tony Mejias lamented the lack of student support for UCF's Men's and Women's Basketball, I take exception, not offense.

According to UCF's Public Relations Website, 7,164 UCF students are from Orange County, 946 are from Seminole County and 50 are from Volusia County. Students from Seminole County number 3,580; Brevard County weighs in with 3,264; Volusia 1,045; Brevard 1,666. That means many of the students here on campus come from somewhere else. Perhaps this is why the commuter campus nickname comes from "If a large crowd of supporters cheering in approval is an adequate reward for their work," wrote Mejias, "then they haven't been rewarded."

I think it's wonderful how successful both Kirk Speraw and Lynn Bria have been in cultivating a solid, winning basketball program. However, UCF is currently a Level 2 Research University Carnegie Classification. That means UCF receives $125 - $25 million in federal support from research and development. And we award at least 500 doctorates a year.

How did we get here? By commitment to academic standards and investment in research in my guess.

Well, according to the 1997-1998 UCF Graduate Catalog, institutes the Florida Solar Energy Center, the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers, and the Institute for Simulation and Training account for more than half of all UCF's sponsored research money.

To be sure, everyone wants his or her university to be nationally recognized.

But remember when Chico State in California was nationally recognized as the No. 1 party school in America? And Kent State? "Four dead in Ohio," sang Neil Young. How about UC Berkeley? Free speech riots. And does anyone know the name of Harvard's number one sports hero. How about Yale? Former President George Bush went there—and, I'm told, he did play baseball.

My point is, there are many athletes attending UCF for the intercollegiate sports program. But many others came here strictly for an education. So, the reason they or we are staying away from games is not because UCF isn't in a "real" conference. It's because we have "real" commitments to families, studies and jobs.

Still, the game will be televised, so I can show my support that way. Good look, Knights!

Letter to the Editor

Add/Drop too short for one student

I am finally a senior here at UCF. Somehow it's only taken three and a half years, but it seems longer. I am more upset this spring semester with the system here at UCF than ever before. What is with ADD/DROP being three days long? What about all the students who have Monday or Tuesday only classes? I always thought college was great because I could shop "around" for classes.

Some classes look great while scheduling, but once you sit down, get the syllabus and find out the price of the textbooks, the search has begun for a replacement class.

I apparently took this simple task for granted. For the amount of tuition each student pays here at UCF, I think all 30,000 of us deserve a five day ADD/DROP period. Doesn't seem like too much to ask for, especially since there is no parking.

—Gina Carson, Senior, Sociology

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For more information, please call Nicole St. Hilairte at (407)670-0799, or stop by our booth at the UCF Job Fair on Jan 26th, 1999!

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The soul of a champion: a letter to Michael Jordan

ANDREW BERNSTEIN
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Dear Mr. Jordan - or if I may - Michael,

I would like to wish you well on your retirement and to thank you.

You thank you for winning six NBA titles and earning hundreds of millions of dollars. If you ask why I thank you when obviously you did it for yourself, not for me, I will respond: That is exactly why I thank you. I can see the pride you take in your achievements — in being the greatest ever in your field — but I wonder if you realize all that you have to be proud of.

Most people, unfortunately, do not push themselves to excel and the problem is not a lack of capacity. Over a period of 20 years as a teacher, I have observed many talented students who squander their gifts. It is hard work for a man to actualize his potential. Thomas Edison defined genius as 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. Many of us — perhaps most — do not wish to perceive that profusely. But you, Michael, do not share such a reluctance.

When the teen-age boy, cut from his high school basketball team; practices hours every day before school, he displays his work ethic. When the University of North Carolina hero "husts his butt" at Bobby Knight's drill-instructor-style practice sessions in order to win the Olympic gold, he reaffirms that commitment. When the greatest player in the history of basketball continues, at age 35, to out-hustle far younger players — on defense as well as offense — and to lead his aging team to yet another championship, he surpasses the meaning of such concepts as "dedication" and "perseverance": he sets an example and a standard for which, perhaps, mankind has not yet developed a vocabulary.

Most of us, unlike you, are mere mortals; we cannot fly. But we can aspire. We can push ourselves to the limit of our ability and achieve the highest level possible to us. When I see you playing in a championship game with a fever that would keep most men in bed — when I see that, physically, you are almost too weak to stand, but you still push yourself to score 38 points and hit the game-winning shot — it moves me to ask: What can I achieve if I dedicate myself similarly to my own work and life?

It is true that basketball, like any sport, is just a game. Mankind's survival does not rest on the outcome of the World Series or the Super Bowl — not in the same way that it rests on the ability to grow food, cure diseases or invent new technologies. But in a broader sense, the world does depend on the spirit at the root of any athletic contest: the dedication to excellence. The superb athlete striving for a championship or a gold medal is a publicly visible symbol of achievement. He (or she) is a man of dignity and stature. I hope you realize that this is the source of your enormous influence.

No athlete of our time, Michael, captures this meaning as much as you do. It isn't only, or even primarily, the dominance, you exhibit on the basketball court; it is the way you conduct your life. So many of today's athletes, musicians, movie stars and politicians are guilty of drug use, infidelity, or violence; through these despicable acts, they seem determined to betray their admirers. But you stand high above them as a man of dignity and stature.

I hope you realize that this is the source of your enormous popularity. There are few heroes today. Great men are no longer revered in our society; they are derided. Our culture, has, in its explicit intellectual content, become hostile to achievement. Bill Gates' great success brings him the reward of untinted prosecution; Martha Stewart is accused of arrogance for showing people how they could lead more beautiful lives; you are attacked for alleged arrogance. But you stand high above them as a man of dignity and stature.

I hope you realize that this is the source of your enormous popularity.

The American people sense, in some visceral, non-intellectual way, that their heroes are being taken away from them. They see all around them, in books and in films, stories about losers and "busts." They see all around them, in books and in films, stories about losers and "busts." They may — Michael, ask why I thank you when obviously you did it for yourself, not for me. I will respond: That is exactly why I thank you. I can see the pride you take in your achievements — in being the greatest ever in your field — but I wonder if you realize all that you have to be proud of.
The editor of "The Journal of the American Medical Association," one of the world's most prestigious medical journals, was fired Friday after publishing what his bosses considered a too-timely study about sex.

The AMA said the report, in which 59 percent of college students said that oral-genital contact didn't count as having sex, seemed to be timed with President Clinton's impeachment trial. Clinton is accused in part of intentionally mischaracterizing his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"Publishing this survey this way at this time imposes "JAMA" into the highly charged political debate surrounding the impeachment proceedings now under way in the U.S. Senate," said Dr. Ratcliffe Anderson Jr., executive vice president of the AMA. The study will appear in the Jan. 20 issue of the journal.

Dr. George Lundberg wasn't just fired over this one article but for his entire performance over seven months. The AMA said the report, in which 59 percent of college students said that oral-genital contact didn't count as having sex, led to a loss of trust and confidence in the AMA's leadership, his colleagues said.

"He's been close to being fired on a number of occasions," said Dr. Andrew Relman, retired long-time editor of "The New England Journal of Medicine," which is the nation's other major medical journal. "He's been chastised before by the AMA for publishing certain things."

Although Dr. Relman said he would not have published the sex survey - simply because journals typically can publish more scientifically significant submissions - he called the firing a bad mistake.

"I think that this is going to have a backlash effect on the AMA," Dr. Relman said. "I think George made a poor editorial judgment, but not so egregious a one that it merited this action, particularly when it gives the message that the editor of the journal are not independent."

Although the AMA publishes the journal, "JAMA" operates largely free of its parent group. The publication is thought to be read by more physicians worldwide than any other medical journal. Its policy states that peer-reviewed studies and other articles "represent the opinions of the authors and do not reflect the official policy of the American Medical Association" unless specifically stated. The AMA, with about 290,000 members, is the nation's most politically influential doctors group.

A local AMA representative supported the decision and said he was not surprised to see Dr. Lundberg go.

"If I had had a vote, I would have voted in favor of this happening," said Dr. David Vanderpool, a Dallas physician who is an elected delegate to the AMA. "I think it's been time for a change for a while."

He said that AMA delegates during past meetings have tried to discipline or replace Dr. Lundberg when he has apparently questioned AMA positions through the pages of his journal.

"Dr. Lundberg has been unwilling or unable to support the AMA House of Delegates in his own editorials in "JAMA,"" Dr. Vanderpool said.

The research that led to Dr. Lundberg's firing was conducted "to determine which interactions individuals would consider as having had sex," the study reported. Scientists from The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction in Bloomington, Ind., surveyed 5100 undergraduates in 1991. The paper says it attempts to address "current public debate regarding whether oral sex constitutes having 'had sex.'"

Scientific research has become entwined in political debates before. A study from the British journal "Nature," made public just before last November's U.S. elections, concluded that Thomas Jefferson fathered a son of one of his slaves. An editorial published with the study made references not only to the past president in question but to the current one.

The AMA's Dr. Anderson said he was concentrating his concern only on "JAMA." "My expectation is for "The Journal of the American Medical Association" to focus on science and medicine."
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www.ucffuture.com

January 20, 1999
Central Florida Future

Christine Tatum
College Press Exchange

Princeton president wants to end ‘Nude Olympics’

PRINCETON, N.J. - The “Nude Olympics,” a long-standing tradition at Princeton University in which students run naked through the semester’s first snowfall, should stop before someone gets killed, the university’s president says.

In a letter printed in the student newspaper, President Harold Shapiro said the university is considering banning the event after six students were hospitalized with severe alcohol poisoning and four more were treated at the university’s student health center following the latest raucous running on Jan. 8.

“This past weekend’s experience provided a grave reminder of the serious risks that the Nude Olympics pose to our students’ health and safety, largely because of the excessive and indiscriminate use of alcohol,” Shapiro wrote.

“Moreover, several of the college masters report behavior that was truly disgraceful and unacceptable.”

The decades-old tradition is one of Princeton’s most notorious. At midnight, hundreds of students gather to watch the sophomore class run naked through a central, ice-covered courtyard while music blares from adjacent dormitory windows.

About 350 students bared all, and hundreds more scrambled to watch on Friday, but what started out as fun and exhilarating quickly got out of hand. While making her way through the courtyard, she said she saw a man peeing on a woman, another man masturbating, a couple having sex, men groping women, drunk students drifting in and out of consciousness and several people slipping on the ice and snow.

“I was in a nudist mosh-pit grabbing desperately at arms and shoulders to keep myself from being trampled,” she wrote to the student newspaper, the Daily Princetonian.

Some students said Friday’s run was emotionally painful as well.

“Was it class unity when a guy in one of my classes was hurt after a spectacle yelled out obvious comments about his physique, and a woman cried and pledged to lose weight because two of her male friends told her that she had put on too many pounds since freshman year?” Jennings, president of the class of 2000 wrote to the newspaper. “A combination of mob culture and a couple of inches of snow apparently give us the license to normalize behavior that we would otherwise not tolerate: sexual harassment, rape and threats to our lives with blood-alcohol levels over 0.25, just so we can loosen up enough to take off our clothes.”

University officials at the scene said they too, were shocked and dismayed by the display.

“I can’t go back to the Nude Olympics after this,” College Master David Carrasco told the Princetonian. “I felt a sense of shame. I think many people there felt ashamed.”

Nevertheless, many students want the event to continue, claiming that it is an important opportunity to bond and soak up the college experience with classmates.

“I look like an idiot trying to defend people’s right to run around naked, but if students see this as a tradition, the administration needs to do anything possible to make it safe,” said student body president-elect Spencer Merriweather.

University officials have tried to regulate the event in the past few years by working with student organizers and barring photographers and television cameras. The university also added security, extra lighting and emergency personnel to make the run safer for students.

As far as Shapiro is concerned, the efforts have failed. He has asked the university’s deans of students and a group of faculty, students and staff to study the event and the next several weeks and come up with “options for preventing this tragedy before it happens.” Shapiro said he wants to resolve the issue with university trustees early in the spring semester.

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Robin Williams exposes himself

**CELEBRITY PROFILE**

Robin Williams believes in the ability of laughter to heal. "I think it’s powerful. I’ve seen it one-on-one, on a personal level, with Chris Reeve," says the funnyman, referring to his paralyzed close friend. He’s seen the effect it has on children, on M*A*S*H kids, on kids he’s visited on children’s wards. I’ve seen it with people just dealing with each other one-on-one. It’s not so much laughter as human connection. It works.

Another person who believes deeply in the concept of laughter as medicine is Hunter “Patch” Adams, a once-suicidal man who, while institutionalized in a mental institution in the 1960s, discovered his ability to listen to people, to help people, to make people laugh. Once released, he attended the Medical College of Virginia, where he fought a system that sought to take the humanity out of healthcare that reduced hospitalized patients to mere bed numbers or conditions. He formed a free clinic, often sported a bright red rubber band around his wrist, and the Adams biopic is said to be based upon the interaction with patients, about connecting with someone, especially the children.

The Adams biopic comes in the middle of a frenzied stretch during which there seems to be no escaping Williams. He received an Oscar for “Good Will Hunting,” went on the family route in “Flubber,” enlisted Woody Allen’s caus tic “Deconstructing Harry,” visited heaven and hell in “What Dreams May Come” and once again co-hosted HBO’s annual “Comic Relief” fundraiser. Next up is “Jakob the Liar,” a Holocaust drama due for release in early 1999.

“Jakob” is different from “Life is Beautiful,” Williams says. “Jakob” takes place in the ghetto. The ghetto was like a holding area that the Germans, especially in Poland, would use to keep the Jews. It takes place in 1944, when a Polish Jew hears a broadcast on a German radio. In the background he hears a battle being fought, and he realizes it’s on the borders of Poland.

So, the Russians are coming. They are no longer fighting in Russia. They are now in Poland. "Jakob (Williams) tells one person, to prevent him from committing suicide, and that just triggers everybody wanting to know more. He doesn’t have a radio, but everybody thinks that he does, and he starts to make things up to keep it going. It’s a character-driven piece. Alan Arkin is in it, and he’s amazing. There are moments of humor, but it’s not a comedy. I talked to survivors and they said ‘Moments of humor existed, even in the (concentration) camps. It was very dark humor, but it kept the soul alive.’ It’s an amazing, small movie.”

As if that weren’t enough, Williams still manages to make surprise appearances at comedy clubs in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco—where he lives with his family—and is soon to begin yet another film, “Bicentennial Man,” based upon Isaac Asimov’s sci-fi short story of the same name. Rumor has it that Williams might lay low after he wraps “Bicentennial Man” because he fears overexposure.

"Overexposure is a dangerous thing," he says. "Jakob the Liar” couldn’t come out this year. It would just be too many films. They’d start advertising movies without me. ‘Presenting... a movie without Robin Williams.’ In the past, I’d do one or two a year, at most. Then, all of a sudden, there was a period where I was doing three or four a year. It’s better to slow down. It’s better to build expectations. That’s an art form Tom Hanks has perfected. He waits, then boom, he’ll do another one. Sometimes I’m like a little kid. ‘That’s great! Let’s go!’

What happens, then, if a great role in a marvelous film comes along? Wouldn’t Williams kick himself hard if someone else made a movie he turned down simply because he caved into worries about overexposure?

“It’s a danger, yeah,” he replies. “Sometimes you will miss good films. But if you just keep taking them, you burn out yourself or you burn out the audience. They’ll go, ‘Seen that. Seen that. Seen that. That’s more dangerous.”

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MARCEL SPINDAE
STAFF WRITER

Predictions suck. Year in Review Countdowns suck. A whip smart, style conscious list of recommendations from the previous and upcoming year that just wouldn’t suck, so behold a preparatory primer. You may not know about a few of these things, but you should, you definitely should, you jaded hipsters.

Lauryn Hill-The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill
www.lauryn-hill.com

Let’s face it, the (Re)Fugees aren’t just talent-ed, beautiful and interesting, they’re also the only MTV darlings worth their two-video-per-hour rotation. When Ms. Hill’s album first came out it signaled a triumph of the lyrical Queen over the pompous and melodramatic reign of the Lilith Fair Lites. A little wisdom on love, an infectious low end and a cash crop of influences so lush and historical, 30 years from now, one might call it the perfect statement of the 1990’s.

Robert Rivers-
The “sketch pad artist”

In a biography by Norman Mailer, his subject, a young Picasso is described as being “relegated to a sketch pad artist.” The comment held a certain amount resonance, as though Picasso’s career was stifled by his lack of painting supplies. Robert Rivers, whose selected “sketch pad” is currently on display at the UCF gallery (as part of the Flying Horse exhibition) does not give the impression of limits, but rather of a stealthily naturalistic, and disciplined artist. His subject matter? Well, the animal. But what animal do you see? Is it the artistic kind? Is it some archetypal primordial kind, beyond the human kind? Mythical and inspiring, and all from a mere UCF art instructor, some teachers deserve their relegated obscurity.

Carving important niches in pop culture for decades to come are Lauryn Hill, Cornelius, the art of Robert Rivers, and MTV’s Amp.

There are only three things more exciting to do with your television on the weekend than watch Amp. Two of them require it be unplugged, and the third is obscene. Pre-recorded and beamed via satellite, the electronic DJ is transplanted from his/her original habitat in front of the turntables to the video console, which makes for the most exciting viewing since Kurt Loder last interviewed Rammstein in German.

Cornelius-Fantasma
www.matadorrec.com

Somewhere in the sonic neighborhood of Algernon the mouse on happy pills, storming through the sheet music of Bach, held together by an overworked, short circuiting sampler, this is a musical quest for the ambitious and schizophrenic alike. Cornelius is a genius, no other album in 1998 challenged or harassed its listener with so many hidden rewards.

Free Ice Cold Lemon Water
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Take a free plastic cup, or better yet, take the entire ice cold jug from the condiment counter, grab an advert saturated kind? Is it some archetypal primordial kind, beyond the human kind? Mythical and inspiring, and all from a mere UCF art instructor, some teachers deserve their relegated obscurity.

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Take a free plastic cup, or better yet, take the entire ice cold jug from the condiment counter, grab an advert saturated magazine and head for the shamefully comfortable couches by the stores entrance. Read some music criticism, or some gossip, but just sip and read, just sip and read, baby.
January 20, 1999

Dear Dr. Daphne,

My 21st birthday is in a few weeks & my friends want to take me out drinking. I'm not much of a drinker and not too hot on the idea. What should I do?

Unexcitable Buddy

January 20, 1999

Dear Dr. Daphne,

I kissed my boyfriend's friend over the weekend. It just happened. Do I tell him? Little Miss Secrets

February 20, 1999

Dear Dr. Daphne,

I cannot see why you wouldn't want to have a memorable 21st birthday. That usually means getting really wasted. The Eye

I applaud you for making up your own mind and not falling into this drunken stupor our generation is in. But, what is wrong with you? Everyone HAS to have a memorable 21st birthday. That usually means getting really wasted. No control over what you do. To the point you don't remember a damn thing. You wake up next to the porcelain god, all your "friends" are gone. Small run-in with the law. You undoubtedly find out. Choose to fool around with guys your own age. You are young, meet strapping young bucks. Let them wine and dine you. And if by choice you kiss them, so what? Just be careful, okay? Some guys are wacks. You under no obligation to tell that boy-toy of yours anything. He doesn't know, then it's easier to dodge the questions.

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LISTEN UP!

Various Artists
The Faculty — Soundtrack
(Columbia)

Glossy but hard-hitting, homogenous but undeniably entertaining, the soundtrack to 1998's cross-breeding of Scream and Invasion of the Body Snatchers is, indeed, a reflection of the film itself. No expense was spared as far as signing the talent involved — The Offspring, Creed, Soul Asylum, Garbage, Sheryl Crow, and Oasis are just some of the musicians involved. However, it's the lesser known groups that make the biggest impressions in the album. The best selection appears smack dab in the middle of the lineup: “Haunting Me,” by Stabbing Westward. Although they may not be as well known as their radio-friendly counterparts, Westward creates a rhythm of paranoia that captures the spirit of the film more completely than anything else on the CD. Another highlight is “It's Over Now,” a slick, well-done number by the group Neve (no, not that Neve). This is not to say that The Faculty soundtrack is without flaws. Far from it. The powers that be, including executive producer (and Faculty director), decided that a good vault raiding was necessary. Thus, we get a recycled version of Pink Floyd's “Another Brick in the Wall.” Why? Wasn't the original perfect enough? No matter what the new musicians did with the material, it'll make those who've heard the real McCoy nostalgic. Another miscue was to exclude the film's score (by Scream and Scream 2's Marco Beltrami). The score often proves to be the highlight of the CD (listen to the soundtracks of Armageddon, Dark City, L. A. Confidential, etc.). But if you overlook the remakes, this is a rocking concoction, with Garbage adding their unique style to “Medication,” and Crow chipping in with perhaps her most unusual track in “Resuscitation.”

—B.W. Earl

Combustible Edison
The Impossible Dream
(Sub Pop)

It's like the feeling of walking into a smoke-filled jazz lounge, while the most diverse range of people are sitting around watching. It's a style that may attract a clown (or two), a mime, and some track drivers. Combustible Edison plays some very high quality, yet strange, melodies that one can only dream about. With hardly any vocals, their sound appears more along the lines of Benny Goodman guest starring on an "X-Files" episode. Magical voices appear at random, atonal chords provide an eerie rhythm, and drums provide an exotic bossa nova tint. Where the music can't be heard is where Combustible Edison comes through. They seem to be the unusually unwanted parts of an average musical arrangement such as bass chords, and float them to the surface. The first track, "Upsaila," is a prime example, and an immediate entrance into their hazy world. They show their ghastly sounds especially on "Dior," where the voice of Liz Cox slithers in and out of the jazz lounge air. Most of their thirteen scores are blends and combinations of Henry Mancini, Martin Denny, and Benny Goodman packaged with electronic mixes. The Impossible Dream is an unexplored album that shows a new potential, and a melodic spark never felt before.

—Steve Unger
In 1959 Ms. Hansberry wrote a play about a black fam­ily growing up on Chicago's south side. Now that play, A Raisin In The Sun, is history. It was about a family much like her own. A story she wrote with a "poignancy and urgency" that main­stream America embraced. The world followed. The story, her play, won the New York Drama Critics' Choice Award for Best Play of the Year. She was the fifth woman and the only "Negro" woman to have been so honored. That is only a part of the story. A rich montage of images which the UCF Theatre has exu­berantly recreated in the '98 version of the play.

In the late 60's the nation experi­enced many changes. There were polit­i­cal protests, the sexual revolution was just taking form, and the civil rights movement was not just read about but also experienced by everyday Americans. It signifies why the play is still relevant today. It represents a voice that still struggles to be heard. Not unlike any other, individual, American voice.

For the most part the disconnected images appear to be more connected than not. There may be times during the per­formance when you question what direc­tion the action is taking you. The same could be said of the original version. The same questions asked by Ms. Hansberry during her life.

The play takes eight performers consisting of three men and five women that step in and out of the scenes and sometime share a single character. There is no real star of the show but the cast makes all the facets of Hansberry's char­acter shimmer uniquely. Although the UCF production lacked Cicely Tyson it seemed to produce a more toe-tapping performance of "Lord I Don't Feel No Ways Tired," a song from the play. The play is a tribute that celebrates Hansberry's life more than her death.

The updated version Of To Be Young, Gifted, and Black is just as enjoyable, just as touching, and maybe done just a bit better. The play takes excerpts from both Raisin In The Sun and The Sign in Sidney's Bruised Window. The actors pull it off with ease and in some cases are more believable than the original. If you don't catch it now, you'll have to wait until next time to see how history contin­ues to influence the present.

To Be Young, Gifted, and Black runs until the 24th. For ticket prices and show times, please call the Box Office at 823-1500.

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"Since July, the Tohenko Chinese restaurant in Tokyo has been offering the all-you-can-eat lunch buffet (regularly about $16) to the first 30 diners at a day. The 30 ceiling fans can create a dining-house atmosphere, measured by a time clock that diners punch when entering and exiting. Other restaurateurs have copied the idea in recession-torn Japan, according to a December Wall Street Journal report, and some have found that including alcohol beverages on the per-minute menu tends to get people to stay longer.

"T.S. Liebling, entertaining as Zamora the Torture King in an entertainment show in which he endures massive pain, told The Riverfront Times (St. Louis) in December that he broke from the similar but better known Jim Rose Circus over "artistic differences." Among Zamora's feats: the traditional straights through the chest and neck; swallowing swords and fire; jumping up and down barefoot on broken bottles; and his occasional "piece of resistance," swallowing a length of ivy, then removing it from his stomach through on-stage surgery with scalpels and forceps.

"Men in Peril (continued) According to police in Lake City, Fla., in November, Felisha Ann Copeland, 31, on learning of her ex-husband's 1998: 25 tons of puddingtered before it could be scraped up (Massachusetts, October)."
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We Are Close To You
Florida topples the rest of the country

UCF’s Daunte Culpepper and Paul Miranda led the charge for Team Florida, who defeated Team USA, 17-9, in the inaugural Gridiron Classic at the Florida Citrus Bowl. It was the first bowl game of its kind to have players from one state compete against players from the remaining 49 states.

"In my opinion, this all-star game in general, within a very short period of time, is gonna be the best college all-star game that’s out there,” Team Florida Coach Lindy Infante said. "The players that we had here, you’re gonna check meters in the NFL over the next few years, and you’re gonna see a lot of these names show up!"

Culpepper, who rewrote most of the UCF record book during his four-year career, earned offensive MVP while leading Team Florida to all 17 points. He completed 8-of-12 passes for 56 yards, including two passes to Bethune-Cookman’s James Adderley for 62 yards.

Team USA cut Florida’s lead to 10-3 on the ensuing drive with a nine-play, 53-yard drive just four minutes later. Nebraska’s Kesi Brown kicked a 35-yard field goal after Leicht and Brian Kucklick combined to complete 4-of-6 passes for 52 yards, but the seven-point deficit was the closest Team USA would get before Miranda and Culpepper combined to put the game away.

Culpepper, Miranda make UCF proud

When UCF’s Daunte Culpepper and Paul Miranda were announced as the Most Valuable Players in the Gridiron Classic, a roar from UCF fans in the crowd arose. UCF players were the hometown favorites as they played their final game in the Citrus Bowl before hopefully beginning professional careers. UCF Coach Mike Kruczek had nothing but good things to say about the importance of Culpepper and Miranda’s performances.

"This game was fantastic for UCF," Kruczek said. "Obviously, having two MVPs, it doesn’t get any better than that with the national exposure."

Missing in action

While most people knew about Cincinnati wide receiver Chad Pittman having to sit out the game for Team Florida with a broken foot, there was an injury on the other side that may hindered Team USA’s chances of winning.

Chuck Noll, the legendary former coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, suffered an Achilles injury on Thursday during practice and was forced to return home. Former New York Jets coach Joe Walton replaced Noll on the sidelines for the USA squad.

Florida Citrus Bowl Gridiron Classic

Traitor in our midst?

Former South Carolina cornerback Kevin Brooks played for Team USA and did not record any defensive statistics. However, he was a popular topic of conversation.

The reason: Team Florida’s roster consisted of all players who either played at the collegiate or high school level in the state of Florida, and Brooks was listed as being from Jacksonville, Florida.

Maybe Team USA would have liked to trade Brooks back to Florida for a quarterback after Brian Kucklick left the game in the third quarter with a mild concussion.

Graham Leigh didn’t fare too well for Team USA as he completed only 6-of-22 passes for 54 yards and was intercepted twice.

UCF leads the charge

UCF had the most representatives (six) of any school in the Gridiron Classic. With the late addition of Paul Miranda to Team Florida, UCF had one more player than Georgia Tech. Fifteen teams had two or more players represented, while 41 more schools had one player each.

Following UCF and Georgia Tech with multiple selections were as follows: four each for Florida, Kansas State, and UCLA; three for Arkansas, Florida State, Notre Dame, and South Florida; and two for Miami, Mississippi State, national champion Tennessee, undefeated Tulane, Virginia Tech, and Wake Forest.

Also, 11 non-Division I-A schools were represented: Bethune-Cookman, Clark University, East Tennessee State, Florida A&M, James Madison, Middle Tennessee State, Robert Morris, South Florida, Tarleton State, Troy State, and Western Illinois.
Burley looks to impress scouts at future events

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

In the inaugural Gridiron Classic at the Florida Citrus Bowl on Saturday, UCF's Siaha Burley and Paul Miranda both took home MVP trophies. But Siaha Burley, Culpepper's favorite target this season, saw very little action and failed to make a catch in Team Florida's 17-9 victory over Team USA.

However, Burley will look to showcase himself this weekend at the Hula Bowl in Hawaii. "I wasn't too productive today for whatever reason," Burley said. "It was kind of frustrating today, but I'll just have to take advantage of the opportunity next week and make the most of it."

Making the most of it is what Burley has done since he first came to UCF. After being snubbed by several universities, Burley accepted a scholarship to UCF without even seeing the campus. He made an instant impact for the Knights his first season at UCF, and has done since he first came to UCF. With an additional All-Star game in which to play in, he looks to be ready for his upcoming opportunity.

Unfortunately for Burley, he wasn't able to play in a bowl game, which put him at a disadvantage compared to many of the players in the game. But once he got into the flow during practice for the Gridiron Classic, he now knows what it means to be an excellent player, and definitely has a shot to keep playing.

"It's a quick footed guy, he has excellent hands, and he's gonna be a great route runner for whatever system he goes in."

Burley has proven that he can be a go-to guy, given the chance. He consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally in receptions and yards per game, and UCF Coach Mike Kruczek has always been quick to sing Burley's praises.

"He brings a lot to the table athletically," Kruczek said. "He has as good of hands as anyone in the country. He runs great routes and has great body control. Plus he's a punt returner."

Unfortunately for Burley, he wasn't able to play in a bowl game, which put him at a disadvantage compared to many of the players in the game. But once he got into the flow during practice for the Gridiron Classic, he now knows what it will take to impress scouts in the upcoming Hula Bowl.

"I hadn't played in a month and a half, so the first day I was a little rusty. But I progressed during the week," Burley said. "I feel like heading into the Hula Bowl that I'll be better prepared. I think I'll have a better week."

Burley was able to play alongside University of Florida receiver Travis McGriff, another player who has a similar challenge to overcome in his pursuit of an NFL job. Both players use quickness and good hands to their advantage to make up for their lack of size.

"I think Siaha's a really good player," McGriff said. "It was unfortunate that he didn't get many balls thrown at him. He's an excellent player, and definitely has a shot to keep playing."

Burley was invited to the combine in Indianapolis, where he will have another chance to make a name for himself in front of scouts from all 31 NFL teams. With an additional All-Star game in which to play in, he looks to be ready for his upcoming opportunity.

"I look to be in better shape at the combine. Hopefully, I'll impress them more than I have so far." Burley said. "I look to be stronger, faster, and bigger. After this week, I'm gonna start rigorous training."

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Miranda solidifies NFL draft hopes with sterling play

TONY MEJIA
SPORTS EDITOR

Walking off the field of Saturday's inaugural Gridiron Classic, cornerback Paul Miranda could do nothing but smile. The game's defensive MVP had every reason to, especially since he may have landed himself an NFL future. Star expectations, and more Miranda is good to be in this going for him important, knew I've worked with have taught me so much about technique and what it takes what was expected of play," but a late invitation allowed him to selected to play in the Gridiron Classic, walking off the field of "These games I've played in have immediate needs for someone for someone produced a magazine for Latina women. Then Christy approached she couldn't shake the magazine idea from her head, so she decided to devote a year to pursuing her dream. "My friends thought I was crazy," she recalls. "But I figured the worst thing that could happen would be that the business wouldn't fly and I'd end up being a lawyer for all the future." As President of her class at law school, Christy already practiced the leadership skills that entrepreneurs need. Her education, however, was limited to editing the Stanford Law Review.

The Secret Success Story brings you information designed to help you achieve your personal and career goals.

The Secret Success Story brings you information designed to help you achieve your personal and career goals. It's all about. I'll never forget the confidence when you need it. you have to show it. Christy decided not to sell the magazine idea to her aunt's main retail store. "We started with the editor of the magazine industry books on how to write a business plan, it was all there. In the magazine, I worked on the cheap in a public library. Christy didn't even want to use the name "Chutney"...it's a terrible name. Turn a noun wish a magazine into a magazine, however, was limited to editing the Stanford Law Review. She wanted to show it. Christy didn't even want to use the name "Chutney"...it's a terrible name.

"If you take any reasonably smart person and tell them to spend a year researching an industry, they can become an expert if they work at it." —Christy Houbeger

Miranda

Culpepper leads Team Florida to win

FROM PAGE 28

more.

His final appearance featured a 2-yard touchdown run in the third quarter set up by an interception by former UCF teammate Paul Miranda. All 17 of Team Florida's points were scored on Culpepper-engineered drives, despite the fact that he played just over half the game. It was an effort that impressed everyone, including Team Florida Coach Infante. "This guy is tremendous. He is certainly one of the top quarterbacks out there," said Infante, a former NFL head coach with the Green Bay Packers and Indianapolis Colts. "I'm just glad I have had the pleasure to have coached him, if only for one game." Culpepper will play in only one All-Star game this year, and elicted the Gridiron Classic because he wanted to play in the Florida Citrus Bowl one last time. It was important for him to line up with UCF teammates Cornel Green, Kirk Collins, Marcus Jenkins, Shaia Burley, and Paul Miranda last one last time. "This was our bowl game. It was something we've been looking forward to for a while," Culpepper said. "After not being able to play in a bowl, this gave us one last chance to play together. It was special, and it also proved UCF players can play with the best."

Next up for Culpepper is the NFL combine in Indianapolis, where he'll be measured, weighed, tested, and evaluated. He plans on hitting the weights and getting his height, reported at 257, down a few pounds before the combine. As for remembering where he came from, who knew Culpepper knew that shouldn't be a concern. In fact, the graduated quarterback took time out to meet and talk with heavily recruited quarterback Cameron Newton in Atlanta. "Garrison was in Orlando on his official recruiting visit, and watched Culpepper practice for the Gridiron Classic." "He's a good kid, I was impressed by him," Culpepper said of Garrison. "I think it's key to support your school. That's what it's all about, I'll always be a UCF fan and supporter and feel it's a privilege to help out the school that did so much for me." UCF fans will feel that same privilege to be rooting on one of their own at the next level. UCF's 1999 gridiron quarterback is still vintage Daunte Culpepper, on and off the field.
Offensive linemen strive for NFL future

JEFF CASE
STAFF WRITER

UCF linemen Marcus Jenkins, Cornell Green and Ryan Gillis entered Saturday’s All-Star Gridiron Classic hoping to claim the inaugural game as UCF’s own and possibly turn a few NFL heads their way.

The trio did nothing to hurt their NFL stock, protecting UCF quarterback Daunte Culpepper, the offensive MVP, while getting their last chance to play as teammates. Now, with UCF’s, err, Team Florida’s 17-9 defeat of Team USA Saturday behind them, the linemen look to their different futures.

Gillis, who missed the 1997 season while recovering from melanoma, was surprised to play in the inaugural game as his final farewell to the Citrus Bowl and his teammates.

“It was great,” Gillis said. “It was my last game with Cornell, Daunte, Siasha [Burley] and Paul [Miranda], kind of like a little farewell game for us all. Cornell and I have played next to each other for years and on the first day of practice, he was at left tackle and for years and on the first day of practice, he was at left guard. The chemistry between us has been great and with Daunte, I have played next to each other and I have a good talk with the Oakland Raiders the other week.

“I’d like to stay in Florida if I could, either in Jacksonville or Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay would be my first choice. But, I’ll go to whoever wants me.”

But, if the NFL does not work out, Gillis said he has a backup plan: professional wrestling. Gillis often sees WCW stars at a local gym in his hometown of Largo and said they have advised him to wait and enter a pro wrestling league.

“I’m going to take football as far as it will go and then we’ll look into wrestling,” Gillis said. “I’ve talked to a couple of wrestlers back home, I’ve talked to the Nasty Boys about it, so I’m just going to wait and see. They told me the same thing, to see how far football will take me first.”

Ron Blackledge, offensive line coach for Team Florida, was impressed by the UCF trio and said they have the skills and size to play in the NFL. Blackledge, who formerly coached with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Indianapolis Colts, said the fact Gillis, Green and Jenkins came from a young Division I-A program should not hinder them in the NFL.

“With a little bit of luck, I think these guys can play in the NFL,” Blackledge said. “They’re big enough, you don’t have to be any bigger to play. It’s harder to measure your heart. If your heart is there and your work ethic is there and you work through practice and you don’t get hurt while you practice, yeah, you’re big enough.

“It doesn’t matter. I know (UCF Coach Mike) Kroczenz and I think the UCF program is a good program. I’ve worked with some guys from big schools who aren’t nearly as advanced as guys from small schools. What those kids showed me today is they have a pretty good understanding of football and I know they’ve done a good job at UCF.”

For Jenkins and Green, the game served as redemption for the Knights lost bowl bid. Jenkins said he has also filled out NFL paperwork and hopes to be drafted this spring. While his post-NFL plans remain uncertain, Jenkins is sure of one thing.

“I’m not into wrestling, that sort of thing,” Jenkins said. “It’s all still pretty much up in the air. I can say this, though. This was the best thing to happen for UCF and the players that came out to play. I think for the first year of this game, it was fun and I can’t wait to see it in the future.

“This was like our bowl game. Since we didn’t have the chance to go to one, this was the icing on the cake for our season.”

Green, who was named to the All-Independent team this season, is the most likely draftee of the group. He was slowed by soreness in his back during the game, but Blackledge said Green’s draft stock probably not hurt by the game.

For now, Green is waiting to graduate in May with a degree in mechanical engineering. He hopes to land an NFL spot like Jenkins and Gillis, but said his degree is his most treasured accomplishment.

“It’s still all in God’s hands and hopefully I’ll get a shot in the NFL,” Green said. “If not, I’m going to get my degree either way. Hopefully, one day, I want to own my own business, something I can generate for my own family. I had fun playing college football. I’m going to cherish that for right now.”

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Gillis
Green
Jenkins
Knights enjoy successful recruiting weekend

UCF seems to have filled its kicking vacancy while also picking up a verbal commitment from a standout linebacker who originally signed with Clemson out of high school.

Jacksonville Mandarin kicker Gabe Leavitt, a first-team Class 6A all-state selection, committed to UCF over Arizona, Virginia Tech and Michigan. Leavitt (6-foot, 175 pounds) handled the punting and kicking duties for Mandarin.

A recruiting analyst from the Border Wars website feels Leavitt is arguably the top kicker from the Sunshine State. His father, Alan Leavitt, was an All-American kicker for the Georgia Bulldogs in the early to mid-1990s and kicked for three seasons in the NFL. Leavitt chose UCF over Georgia, Texas Tech, Tulane, and Tennessee.

"My Dad started me with the basics," Leavitt said. "I now kick off a one-inch tee, not a two inch one. Plus, I spend a lot of time kicking off the ground. Hopefully, this will make the adjustment much easier for me."

Leavitt was named to the Florida Times-Union "Super 24 Team" (best players in North Florida and South Georgia) and was an all-district and all-Gateway Conference selection. He was listed among The Sporting News' Top 100 Overall Players in America.

Scott Perkins, a former all-state lineman from Plantation High, will also reportedly sign a letter-of-intent with UCF while also picking up a verbal commitment from the Sunshine State. I'm looking forward to coming next year."

Perkins said he will not take anymore visits, although Clemmon and Cincinnati were said to be interested.

UCF baseball to play home schedule at Tinker Field

The University of Central Florida and the city of Orlando have reached an agreement to allow the UCF baseball team to play its home games at Tinker Field this season. The move was due to hold-ups in the construction of UCF's new baseball stadium and the fact that the current facility is in disrepair.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to play our games at Tinker Field. It is a great facility that our fans will enjoy watching games from. We appreciate what the city of Orlando and the people with the Orlando Rays organization have done for us to make this happen," UCF opens its season Feb. 20 against Duke at the Olive Garden Classic and their home season Feb. 5 with a three-game series against 1998 NCAA Regional participants Nicholls State.

Prior to their opening homestand, the Knights will play at Bethune-Cookman on Feb. 20 and Feb. 23 before departing for a two-game series at nationally-ranked LSU on Feb. 27-28.

UCF overpowers Stetson, Jacksonville

The Golden Knights enjoyed last week's two contests at the UCF Arena.

They enjoyed being home for a pair before a long four-game road trip on the horizon, they enjoyed the cheering crowds, and enjoyed huge leads on route two a pair of TAAC blowouts won against in-state rivals Jacksonville and Stetson.

Against the Dolphins, D'Quarin Stewart scored a career-high 24 points, connecting on 10-of-12 shots from the field to lead the Knights to a 74-58 win. The effort was necessary considering senior forward Brad Traina's season-low 3 points. The lack of production from Traina was due to what can be best described as a stress fracture of his foot, making it difficult to move, much less play basketball. Mario Lovett scored 12 points and had a team-high six rebounds, while holding UCF scoring leader Calvin Slaughter to just 5 points.

UCF was even more impressive in Saturday night's 84-65 victory over Stetson. Despite the Hatters' Garrett Davis' 20 first half points, the Knights took a 52-34 halftime advantage by scoring 64.5% from the field. UCF had 13 assists and only four turnovers in the first half in which they connected on six three-pointers. Lovett finished with a career-high 17 points and added eight rebounds in the win.

Traina plays with the pain

After being diagnosed with a stress fracture, senior Brad Traina had two choices: play with the pain or have a surgery that would end his playing career at UCF. If you knew Traina, you see he really only had one choice.

The senior forward from Sanford will look to overcome the pain associated with playing with his injury for the remainder of the season. Despite the

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Florida Atlantic Owls (5-11, 2-4) - FAU played host to a pair of its in-state rivals with mixed results last week, losing to Section, 73-57, before rallying to beat Jacksonville, 85-80. Rebounding and shooting were the problems in the loss to the Huskies, as the Owls were out-rebounded 40-32 and shot under 31 percent from the field. Damon Amette, the Owls' top scorer, was held to just 14 in the loss. They were out-worked on the boards again against Jacksonville, but shot 54 percent and got 26 points and five steals from Amette. Gary Dorsey added 17 points off the bench, while Cedric Powell had three steals to pull ahead of Amette in that department. The Owls host a three-in-state rival, UCF, Wednesday night, before traveling to Centenary on Monday.

Georgia State Panthers (8-9, 4-2) - They may have taken longer than expected, but Charles "Lefty" Driskell has his team playing like they were expected to when they were dubbed the favorite to win this year's TAAC crown.

Since opening week losses to FAU and UCF, the Panthers have won four straight, including the past two games. They beat Troy State on the road, 90-81, last Saturday. Quinn Gause won TAAC Player-of-the-Week honors, averaging 24.5 points and 13 rebounds in the two games. He led the team in shooting and rebounding both times. Kevin Morris was effective as well, averaging 20.5 points and 6 assists. Rebounding was also strong, as the Panthers averaged 11 rebounds in the past two games. The Panthers have been a strong rebounding team all season and were no exception in a 59-56 loss to UCF. This gave Georgia State the TAAC lead, which had been poor, but the team continued in an offensive flow against Jacksonville, 84-66. Reed Reed scored 22, while Will Daniel had one of his best games of the year, scoring 19 points, while top scorers Marlon Garland and Rudy Williams had 14 and 12, respectively. However, the rest of the team managed only 12 points and five assists. It was a disappointing end to the season for the Panthers, who defeated its competition easily last week and could be tournament-bound, unlike section.

Jacksonville State Gamecocks (5-11, 0-6) - Things got no better for the Gamecocks following their 78-70 loss to Troy State last Monday night. On Thursday, JSU was destroyed by conference-foe Samford, 82-57, who was at the other end of the spectrum in not having lost yet. JSU center Wes Carter had an ineffective game scoring 18 points, while top scorers Marlon Garland and Rudy Williams had 14 and 12, respectively. However, the rest of the team managed only 12 points and five assists. It was a disappointing end to the season for the Panthers, who defeated its competition easily last week and could be tournament-bound, unlike section.

Samford Bulldogs (12-4, 6-0) - The bear goes on for Samford, who defeated its competition easily last week, taking out Jacksonville State, 82-57, and beating on Centenary, 84-66. Reed Roushings scored 27 in the victory against the Gamecocks, while four other Bulldogs scored in double figures. Against Centenary, center Matt Salyers scored 22, while Will Daniel had one of his best games of the year, scoring 19 points, while top scorers Marlon Garland and Rudy Williams had 14 and 12, respectively. However, the rest of the team managed only 12 points and five assists. It was a disappointing end to the season for the Panthers, who defeated its competition easily last week and could be tournament-bound, unlike section.

Stetson Hatters (7-3, 2-4) - Coach Murphy Arnold is satisfied with his team's start to date, confident that most people thought Stetson would have had a winning TAAC record at this juncture of the season. However, don't let him fool you. Arnold admits he would have loved to have beaten the Golden Knights to move ahead of them in the conference standings. UCF has been hampered by their defense, as they played terrific basketball from the onset and took a 52-34 halftime lead, winning 84-65 at the final buzzer. Sidney Lanier, who had scored 23 points in a 75-57 win at Florida Atlantic earlier in the week, was held to just 6 points by UCF. Garrett Davis led the Hatters with 23, scored only 1 point in the second half. It was the final game of a four-game road trip for Stetson, who return to the Edmundson Pavilion for games against Troy State and Mercer this Thursday and Saturday.

Troy State Trojans (5-11, 2-4) - After handing Jacksonville State a 78-70 loss last week, Troy State was hoping to make a dent in the TAAC standings with games against Mercer and Georgia State. It didn't happen. Mercer beat up on Troy State, 81-45, despite 23 points from Eugene Christopher. A bright spot however, was their play in a 90-81 loss to Georgia State on Saturday. Although playing their third game in six days, the Trojans hung tough and battled the pre-season favorites, before giving way in the end. Christopher scored 16 points and grabbed ten rebounds, while Brad Grant also recorded a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds. Former walk-on Joey Rains scored a season-high 27 points in the loss. Troy State will be at Stetson Thursday night, and will play against Jacksonville on Saturday.
Stewart handles variety of roles with great success

Travis Bell  
Staff Writer

UCF guard D'Quarius Stewart has endured playing second fiddle to Harry Kennedy, Mark Jones, and now Brad Traina as the leading scorer. However, the junior co-captain has been pivotal in helping to lead UCF to a 5-1 start in the Trans America Athletic Conference, while filling many positions and doing the things that often go unnoticed.

Stewart leads the team in number of minutes played, an important category that is often overlooked. The rationale for his extended minutes is simple. When Cory Perry needs a break, Stewart handles the point. If Brad Traina is out, Stewart fills the scorer's role. If there is a tough guard that needs defending, guess who fills the void. So while he isn't necessarily the go-to guy on a full-time basis, as long as Stewart is on the court he doesn't mind waiting his turn as long as the Knights leave the court victorious each night.

"I know that when I'm on the court, I'm doing things to win. I'm not out there for myself," Stewart said. "I'm not trying to be the big dog. I'm just trying to do whatever it takes to be the team player. Playing the minutes usually isn't a problem, because I just don't quit."

His versatility was key in the 84-65 win against Stetson on Saturday night. He scored 11 points on 4-of-6 shooting from the field, pulled down three rebounds and dished out five assists compared to only one turnover. All that was done while running the point to allow Cory Perry some rest, taking shots when leading scorer Brad Traina was resting his injured foot, ironing clothes, and making sure the team was properly hydrated. Well maybe he isn't the perfect point guard, but he was kept busy by Stetson swingman Garrett Davis, who scored 20 first-half points, but was held to only 3 points by Stewart in the second half.

"He played really solid. He's real athletic, and he takes it when it's there," Davis said. "He doesn't try to force things too much. He handles it. He can shoot it, and he can drive."

Not a bad compliment from a player as good as Davis, who leads Stetson in scoring. The fact that Stewart put up all his numbers while having to guard the explosive Davis wasn't lost on UCF Coach Kirk Speraw.

"I'm most pleased with his defense," Speraw said. "He has taken on some really good players, and his defense has made much more progress than the rest of his game."

While Stewart's defense has impressed Speraw the most, his offensive numbers has been exciting the UCF crowds. He is averaging 13.6 points per game while starting all 15 games he's played in. His best career performance came last Thursday during a 16-point victory over Jacksonville. While Traina struggled after suffering a stress fracture in his foot, Stewart carried the offense with 24 points on 10-of-12 shooting, including making all four three-pointers he attempted. He added three rebounds and three assists in the win, effectively picking up the slack of the sidelined Traina, who is motivating teammates by continuing to play despite his injury.

"Brad inspires you, and it puts you in the mode where he's giving his all and it makes you want to work even harder," Stewart said.

After Jackson State ori "toot wiU 'tell whe

Tough contest awaits against Gents

From Page 28

With UCF's fast start in TAAC play, teams will be looking to knock them back into the pack. Despite Samford's 6-0 start, Stetson coach Murray Arnold dubbed the Knights the conference favorite following UCF's impressive 84-65 win against the Hatters. The target is firmly entrenched on the backs of the Golden Knights. How well they weather the onslaught awaiting them in enemy territory will tell whether they remain the team to beat when they return home in February.

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Learning a lesson from the Gators:

UCF lost to the University of Florida 89-59 on Jan. 9, but a lopsided loss does not mean the Knights did not learn anything. The Knights allowed Gator forward Tiffany Travis to score 19 points on 7 of 13 shooting in 21 minutes. Coach Lynn Bria said the strong post play of Travis gives UCF a barometer for the season.

"We have some very good post players in our conference, and if you can defend UF's, you can defend anybody," Bria said. "You play good teams and they exploit your weaknesses, and we wanted to do that because it prepares you for conference." Bria said the Knights loss to No. 21 Florida also teaches her team to put a blowout loss into perspective.

"You can't say, 'Oh, we're a terrible team,'" she said. "You have to realize the competition you're playing and keep it in perspective. It gave us a reality check. You check out where you are at, but you have to keep it in perspective.

Win against Stetson keeps Knights perfect, but...

UCF's 71-63 defeat of Stetson Saturday gave it a 4-0 record in the TAAC, but Bria said she's still not satisfied with her team. She said her team's defensive intensity has grown since the start of the year, but she still expects more.

"You're glad you're 4-0," she said. "But to say I'm pleased? I'm not pleased. We've got a whole conference season to play and a tournament to play. I'm by far not pleased, but am I pleased with our progress to this point? Yes. We have made some strides to put some things together, things seem to be flowing a little bit more.

"We've got a way to go. I don't think you can ever be happy when you're winning. I think that's a team that's going to get knocked off.

Williams, McClendon switch spots

Newly added forward/guard T.J. Williams started her first game of the season Sunday, adding nine points and connecting on two of three three-point shots.

"We've got a ways to go. I don't think you can ever be happy when you're winning. I think that's a team that's going to get knocked off quick." Bria said. "The moves that we've made gives us a little more freedom for players like T.J. and Charyia. I put Charyia where I want her. Bria said the move allows more freedom for leading scorer Charyia Davis in the UCF offense.

Putting T.J. in the game makes us much more versatile," Bria said. "You play good teams when you've got a team that's going to get knocked off quick.

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"We've got a way to go. I don't think you can ever be happy when you're winning. I think that's a team that's going to get knocked off quick."
**Tony Mejia**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

The UCF men’s basketball team has a lot to be excited about. They are 5-1 in conference play, rank second in the TAAC, and are playing their best basketball of the season. However, the upcoming four-game road trip could dampen their spirits.

"The road is never fun. It’s a tough place to be," Coach Kirk Spuraw said. "It’s a different atmosphere, but we’ve got to get up to step to the challenge. The way the schedule is laid out has us on the road for four straight, so we will have to adjust and play well."

You can’t blame Spuraw for not being overly enthusiastic about this road trip. UCF has only two games away from the UCF Arena in eight opportunities. However, the team seems to have turned things around since their poor start, something Coach K.D. Parmer Stewart attributes to maturity and an easier schedule.

"It’s helped that we’ve started conference play," Stewart said. "We had a clean slate and really wanted to come out and send a message. All the guys have been playing together for a while, so we’re a veteran group that has started to click."

The Golden Knights are 5-1 since the new year began, winning all five games by 10 points or more. It’s a sign that UCF is playing with the lead and putting teams away when it has the chance, which Spuraw states is a sign of a veteran team and a vast improvement from years past.

UCF begins its road trip with a game in Boca Raton on Jan. 20 against Florida Atlantic. The Owls are 2-4 in conference action, coming off a 77-70 home victory over Jacksonville. FAU features the TAAC’s leading scorer in swingman Damon Arnette, who also ranks second in the conference in rebounding. The Owls also have the TAAC’s top three steals leaders, meaning ball handling and good decisions will be a focal point for UCF.

"Certainly we’d like to cut down on our turnovers. The first half of the Saturday game, we did a good job of moving the ball around and possessing the basketball," Spuraw said. "We’re always looking to improve though, and that second half they did some things that caused us problems. We just have to work through them and keep getting better."

It will be interesting to see who will line up to defend Arnette. Junior Mario Lovett has been somewhat of UCF’s defensive stopper this year, doing tremendous jobs on Auburn’s Chris Porter, Miami’s Tim James, and lately Jacksonville’s Calvin Slaughter and Sibson’s Sebastian Singleton. Arnette, however, is more of a driver than a low post player, and does present matchup problems with his 6-foot-5, 220-pound frame. However, if it is Lovett who is assigned to shut him down, UCF has every confidence the junior forward can do the job.

"He’s been doing it all year. It’s just gone unnoticed for the most part," Stewart said. "Every difficult matchup he’s had, he’s shut down. It’s not something that a lot of people stop to think about, but we know what he’s doing. We know what kind of defense he’s been playing."

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**Culpepper plays conquering hero one more time**

**Tony Mejia**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

It was vintage Daunte Culpepper. The same guy fans have been watching for four years hasn’t changed. Having defenders bounce off him, scrambling and breaking tackles, throwing strikes with his right arm, Culpepper was home one last time.

At the same time, it was the beginning of an era as well. Culpepper played his first game as a professional in the same stadium in which he played his final contest as an amateur. That was the only difference, however, as he completed 8-of-12 passes for 134 yards and walked off the field as the Offensive MVP, leading his team of Floridians to a 17-9 win against All-Stars from the rest of the country.

"This was really special to me. To play here one more time was something I was looking forward to," Culpepper said. "I really wanted this win for my teammates and fans. We made Florida proud."

"I look at this as a new beginning, because I am a pro now, but at the same time, I’m sad, because things are different now and I won’t get to play at the Citrus Bowl any longer."

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**Undefeated Knights take show on road**

**Jeff Case**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

Chayia Davis should be bucking her team and Knight fans should be upset. Davis, who leads the UCF women’s basketball team in scoring with 19.6 points a game, tied only by four more steals to become the school’s all-time leader in the category. Davis will likely surpass Marcia Swallie’s seven-year old record of 250 steals this week, but unfortunately, it probably will come on the road. UCF (8-6, 4-0 TAAC) will travel to Jacksonville State on Thursday and Samford on Saturday, with Davis’s record breaking night likely falling sometime during the trip.

The Knights are off to their best ever start in the TAAC and a 6-0 record by Saturday night would give UCF its first six game TAAC-win streak since 1994.

"I’m glad we’re off to this 4-0 start," UCF Coach Lynn Bria said. "It’s better than 2-2 or 0-4, but it doesn’t mean we’ve won anything yet. We’ve got a whole conference season to play and a lot of improvements to make."

JSU (8-6, 2-2 TAAC) will pose as the first true test of the Knights’ mettle, as two Gameday teams rank among the conference’s top five scores.

JSU’s Lisa Baswell and Heather Mayes average a combined 38.1 points a game, connecting on a combined 50.2 percent of their field goal attempts. As a team, JSU scores more points than anyone else in the conference (70.3), and leads the league in free throw percentage (70.4 percent), field goal percentage (44.3 percent), and defensive rebounding (25.4 rebounds a game).

Samford, playing in just its second season of women’s basketball, is struggling at 1-14. The Bulldogs are winless in the TAAC, including blowout losses to nationally ranked Alabama (96-52) and a 101-63 loss to TAAC opponent FGU.

The Bulldogs could provide the steals Davis needs to break the record, as SU average 21 turnovers a game. Samford shoot less than 40 percent from the field (39.6) and allows 78.1 points a game, worst in the TAAC.

While this week’s schedule won’t test the Knights’ durability, missing out on Davis’ record-breaking night will no doubt be a bitter sweet moment for Davis and fans alike.

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